Preface

Title:
The World Rotating in a Spiral: He said, “LUV U 4 EVER.”
□□□□□□□□□—He said,“LUV U 4 EVER.”

Often shortened to *The World Rotating in a Spiral* on websites and in the novel. I’ll just call it Spiral from here on out for simplicity’s sake.

Publication:
October 1st, 2005 by Shogakukan
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Republished May 8th, 2009 by Bunkasha Publishing CO., Ltd.
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The republished cover design is a bit different. Both of my copies are the 2005 version, so I don’t have any scans (the cover crops Kaneko’s art tremendously anyway).

Author:
Yusei Kikuchi (September 30th, 1970 - January 6th, 2007)
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Yusei Kikuchi, real name Yuki (□□) Kikuchi (Yusei is a pen name), was born in Zōshigaya, Tokyo, Japan. He was the great-grandson of renowned novelist Kan Kikuchi, a fact in which Yusei Kikuchi seemed to take great pride. He graduated from Nakano High School and attended Meiji University. After graduation, he established an event planning company and worked in real estate management, then worked as an original comic book writer and an online content producer before becoming a novelist in 2003.

Kikuchi studied under Arimasa Osawa, Naoki-prize winning author of the *Shinjuku Shark* series. He had been writing novels since childhood, but was hesitant to pursue a career because of the enormity of the Kikuchi name (through Kikuchi Kan) and the prejudiced views people would have on his work because of it. The publication of *Detective Kan Kikuchi* in a literary magazine gave Kikuchi a chance to research his great-grandfather's life and was what inspired him to begin writing a novel.

Kikuchi made his authorial debut in 2005 with *The World Rotating in a Spiral: He said, "LUV U 4 EVER."*, a sci-fi mystery novel about a detective who receives a phone call from wife, who had been murdered 6 months prior. Apparently, there is a parallel world where she hasn't yet been killed. The detective has to unravel the mystery of his wife's murder in order to save her parallel counterpart (a bit trippy. Weird how both non-ATLUS novel series Kaneko drew for involve parallel worlds and a detective investigating bizarre murders (Jiken series)).

Kikuchi suffered from depression and passed away from heart failure at the age of 36 in Bangkok, Thailand, where he had been living for half a year.

All of this information comes from his obituary. He was buried in his family tomb alongside his great-grandfather. Inscribed on this cool pillar by his grave is the prologue to the only novel he ever published, *The World Rotating in a Spiral*. I'm still not sure how he came to be affiliated with Kazuma Kaneko and ATLUS.

Artist:
Kazuma Kaneko
□□□□

Kaneko only drew a single piece for Spiral, the cover art.

Art Notes

Once again, the only piece Kaneko drew for this novel was the cover art.

Boom, it looks pretty cool. It features Kenji Yokokawa and his detective bud Yuji Kotori on a big spiral staircase, I'm not sure which is which. The phone on the stairs seems to be the one Kenji's parallel-universe wife, Kyōko, called him on. I haven't actually gotten around to reading this yet.

All of those scratches on the sides are actually printed on, I checked both of my copies. Weird choice, but I've gone ahead and manually removed them in the cropped version. The book itself is pretty high quality. It seems to be bound with glue and string, has these fancy textured pages at the start and end, and even has a built-in bookmark. Copies definitely would've cost more to manufacture, this is the only Japanese novel I own that has these kinds of luxuries (granted I don't own many).

The staircase is very likely based on the modern Bramante Staircase in the Vatican Museum. It's a bit hard to tell, but there are actually two staircases here, allowing people to ascend on one side without meeting people descending

on the other. The two sides might have something to do with that parallel universe thing mentioned earlier.